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different uses of the modal auxiliaries are capable of clearer discrimination. The extensive illustrations in this work distinguish it from ordinary grammars and make it a useful, practical companion to any German prose.

Other works having a simple aim to the above, such as that of Beresford-Webb, follow familiar lines and do not require special characterization.

The 'German Prose' of Miss Buchheim, the latest of these works, attempts briefly to guide beginners in writing German and, indirectly, to be an introduction to the larger work of Dr. C. S. Buchheim. Such a book was certainly needed to facilitate the use of its predecessor, an elaborate manual of selections from classical English writers. It is a carefully prepared little book and fulfils well the modest purpose of its editor.

W. T. HEWETT.

Cornell University.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

#### GRUNDRISS DER ROMAN. PHILOLOGIE.

GEEHRTER HERR REDACTEUR :

IN der mir heute zu Gesicht gekommenen Besprechung von Stengel's Metrik aus dem 'Grundriss der romanischen Philologie' (MOD. LANG. NOTES, Bd. 8, No. 7), erklärt der Herr Rezensent es als eine bekannte Thatsache, dass das Erscheinen des 'Grundrisses der romanischen Philologie' wegen Mangel an finanzieller Unterstützung unterbrochen gewesen sei und dass jetzt diese Schwierigkeiten gehoben zu sein schienen.

Ich erlaube mir demgegenüber zu bemerken, dass nie Schwierigkeiten dieser Art bei dem Unternehmen bestanden haben, dass ich keine Unterstützung von irgendwelcher Seite erbeten habe, noch erhalte, dass dies auch durchaus unnötig ist, da die grosse Verbreitung des Grundrisses eine sichere Grundlage abgiebt für den buchhändlerischen Erfolg.

Der *einzig* Grund der Verzögerung in dem Erscheinen des Grundrisses war die Schwierigkeit für die verschiedenen Mitarbeiter, die übernommenen Arbeiten rechtzeitig zu bewältigen. Es ist klar, dass die richtige Abschätzung von vornherein keine leichte Sache

war, und wenn man bedenkt, in welcher umfassenden Weise gerade der Herausgeber, Herr Professor Gröber, an der Mitarbeiterschaft beteiligt ist und welche erstaunliche Arbeitsleistung in seiner 'Geschichte der mittellateinischen Literatur' sich darbietet, so wird es begreiflich erscheinen, dass die Fertigstellung dieser Arbeiten länger gebraucht hat, als vorhergesehen war.

Ich bitte Sie diese Richtigstellung in die nächste Nummer der MOD. LANG. NOTES, aufzunehmen und verbleibe,

KARL J. TRÜBNER.

Strassburg, Germany.

#### THE PHONETIC SECTION.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES.

SIRS:—If money enough can be obtained, the Phonetic Section will print a summary of the facts ascertained thus far by means of the various circulars that have been distributed. All persons who are interested in the subject of American pronunciation are invited to contribute something toward defraying the expense of this publication. Any one can become a member of the Section by sending one dollar to the Secretary.

C. H. GRANDGENT, *Secretary.*

Cambridge, Mass.

#### "FAR FROM THIS."

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

SIRS:—I should like to have an opinion, or opinions, on the phrase which follows:—"A says B owes him money; but *far from this being the case*, A owes B money." Can we, without changing the relations of thought, substitute, "the case being far from this"? In other words, does "the case" relate to the real or the alleged fact? The two aspects may be expanded thus:

"The real fact   differing widely from   the fact alleged,"
" far from                     this being the case."
"the case         being far from                 this."

If the latter be a correct version, the phrase in question is only an inversion: "far from this | being the case."

WM. HAND BROWNE.

Johns Hopkins University.